



U.S. Department of Justice

United States Attorney
Southern District of New York

The Jacob K. Javits Federal Building
26 Federal Plaza, 37th Floor
New York, New York 10278

July 23, 2025

BY ECF & EMAIL

The Honorable Valerie E. Caproni
United States District Judge
Southern District of New York
500 Pearl Street
New York, New York 10007

Re: *United States v. Gustavo Betancourt, 19 Cr. 661 (VEC)*

Dear Judge Caproni:

On July 8, 2025, the parties appeared before the Court for a conference in the above-referenced matter. At that conference and in a subsequent written order (see Dkt. 179), the Court directed the Government to inform the Court by July 23, 2025, whether the Government is willing to proceed with an *Alford* plea in this matter. *See North Carolina v. Alford*, 400 U.S. 25 (1970). The Government respectfully writes to inform the Court that, after careful consideration, the Government is not willing to proceed with an *Alford* plea or a plea of *nolo contendere* in this case.

The Government is available to appear before the Court in this matter at the Court's convenience should the Court require further information.

Respectfully submitted,

JAY CLAYTON
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cc: Evan Lipton (by ECF & Email)